

## **Major Initiatives of WCPM-SARA through Captive Plantation of Various Pulpwood Species, Eucalyptus, Casuarina, Acacia and Subabul on Waste Land to Improve the Livelihood and to Secure Raw Material For Paper Industry**

R.K. Chopra\*, Sudhir Kumar Sharma and A. Gier

*Captive Plantation Project, Raw Material Procurement Department  
The West Coast Paper Mills Limited, Dandeli (Uttar Kannada)  
Karnataka-581325-INDIA*

*\*Email : rkchopra@westcoastpaper.com*

### **Abstract**

The West Coast Paper Mills Limited, Dandeli is a leading paper manufacturing industry actively engaged in plantation activities under its Captive Plantation Project through CFF under the aegis of SARA since 2006 and has covered around 52,000 acres of planting area. Plantation under WCPM-SARA is duly certified with FSC-FM certificate for Well Managed Group Plantation since 2011. All the plantation activities are running under the aegis of SARA, which is a non-governmental, non-profit organization registered under Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960, in 2001. To date SARA has covered around 8000 member farmers. The plantation activities are done on farmer's wasteland, barren, fallow land to promote plantation amongst farmer communities to raise their living standards and employments generation from plantations. This activities are done through a simple agreement i.e. Contract for Farming for five years. Farmers are getting good income from their plantation. Under plantation, superior planting material of various high yielding clones of different pulpwood species suited to particular conditions i.e. Eucalyptus, Subabul, Casuarina & Acacia were planted. SARA is also promoting agroforestry along with plantation programme. All the species are widely accepted under captive plantation since they have a great importance. Among all the pulpwood species, Casuarina is a open and coastal plants having tremendous application under forestry plantations. It is a good candidate for biomass energy plantations, as well as for pulp and other industrial products, because of their nitrogen-fixing ability. SARA is also providing free fodder to the livestock of farmers and free fuel wood to the rural community. Various types of fodder grass such as *Stylosanthes scabra*, *S. hamata* are grown with plantation. Farmers are also adopting Intercropping with various crops like

Cashew, Peanut and Ginger. WCPM-SARA has set up a hi-tech clonal nursery in its campus and producing 50-60 lacs/year of clonal saplings. We have harvested our first rotation crop in some area and till date we have received 1 lac MT of pulpwood from the plantation. The yield from the plantations of various pulpwood species i.e. Eucalyptus, Casuarina, Acacia and Subabul is coming around 30-40 MT/acre after five years. This type of activities would be beneficial for farmers by improving their standards as well as for industry, which are in great crisis of wood by securing raw material. It will also be helpful to conserve our Natural resources, HCVF and will reduce the pressure on Forest for wood.